WV413.40

## WV413.40 Definition

An "interested party" may be defined as any party which has or seeks business with the Department; has operations or activities regulated by the Department; or has interests which an employee could affect by performance or non-performance of his official duties.

Section 0.735-12 of the publication "Employee Responsibilities and Conduct" does <u>not</u> prohibit acceptance of all offers of gifts. Section 0.735(c) allows employees to accept, among other things, the exchange of customary social courtesies that are wholly free of embarrassing or improper advertising or promotional material of clearly trivial value. For example, accepting gratuities such as coffee, lunches, caps, or pens in contract administration work has been determined as not violating USDA policy in accordance with Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

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